(a) the percentage of work completed for cleaning river Yamuna under Yamuna Action Plan till date;

(b) the total amount approved for the scheme and the amount released/spent till date on the scheme;

(c) whether the work on the scheme is going on according to the schedule finalised at the time of launching the scheme viz 1993;

(d) the target date for completion of work on the scheme;

(e) the reasons for delay; if any, and

(f) steps being taken to adhere to the time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) So far about 57% of work has been completed under the Yamuna Action Plan.

(b) The total amount approved for Yamuna Action Plan is Rs. 479.56 crore against which an amount of Rs. 251.74 crore has been spent on the plan upto 31.3.98

(c) to (f) The work on the Yamuna Action Plan has been delayed due to delay in land acquisition for construction of sewage treatment plant and pumping stations and finalisation of technology for sewage treatment plants. The action plan is targetted for completion by 31.12.99 as against the original schedule of completion by 31.3.99.

Cleaning of air quality

302. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Government Bank nas offered funds to clean up the air in the capital and other urban centres;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the cities in Karnataka which are likely to be brought under the scheme of urban air quality management strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the State of Karnataka, Mysore and Bangalore have been-covered for assessment of ambient air quality under the national Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme. Pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and suspended particulate matter are being monitored under this programme.

Hike in Procurement Price of Wheat

303. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to hike the procurement price of wheat during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much procurement is likely to be made during this season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUME AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has granted a Central bonus of Rs. 55/- per quintal in addition to the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 455/- per quintal for the wheat being offered for sale to the procuring agencies for the Central Pool during the period from 1.4.98 to 10.6.98.

(b) Going by the present trend, it is expected that procurement of wheat during the current Rabit Marketing Season 1998-99 may be around 120.00 lakh tonnes.

Import of Wheat at High Price

304. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat at a much higher price was imported recently from Australia than the prices given to the Indian farmers for their produce;

(b) whether his Ministry was ever consulted before import of high price wheat; if so, at what stage and what was the response of his Ministry; and

(c) the quantity of wheat produced during the current rabi season, State-wise and the minimum support price fixed therefor?